

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/896,774
RCE Dated July 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 6, 2005
Docket No. 6169-198

IBM Docket No. BOC9-2000-0062

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for exposing order status in a supply chain having disparate systems, comprising:

a trading partner exchange electronically receiving an order from a first trading partner system said received order being associated with a first trading partner system identifier, said order initiating a transaction;

responsive to receiving the order, the trading partner exchange automatically assigning a unique transaction identifier to the transaction;

the trading partner exchange associating said unique transaction identifier with a plurality of trading partner system identifiers, said trading partner system identifiers including said first trading partner system identifier and a second trading partner system identifier;

the trading partner exchange electronically receiving linking a status [[by a]] from a second trading partner system corresponding to said transaction that is identified by the second trading partner system identifier, wherein said first trading partner system and said second trading partner systems are disparate systems;

based upon the received status, the trading partner exchange automatically updating data associated with the transaction, said data including a transaction status; and

the trading partner exchange, electronically reporting said linked updated data status corresponding to said transaction via an integrated access interface, said status formatted for a particular channel.

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2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said linking step comprises:

providing the trading partner exchange having the integrated access interface communicatively linked to an access platform, said access platform having a plurality of layers through which access to the trading partner exchange is provided, said layers including an access layer, a display layer, and an analytical layer, wherein the access layer provides access through a plurality of different communication channels, wherein the display layer provides different views for different types of trading partners, wherein the analytical layer provides reports, and wherein trading partners using disparate computing systems are able to access reports of the analytical layer through views of the display layer via communication channels of the access layer, said disparate computing systems including the first trading partner system and the second trading partner system.

receiving an identifier for said status reported by said second trading partner, said identifier corresponding to said transaction; and

linking said received identifier to an assigned unique identifier corresponding to said transaction.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said reporting step is responsive to a query received from an access platform linked to the integrated access interface, said access platform accessible by customers and said trading partners.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for exposing order status in a supply chain having disparate systems, comprising:

receiving at a central exchange, an initial order for a transaction from one of a plurality of trading partners having disparate systems, said central exchange assigning a unique identifier for said initial order to said transaction;

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linking an identifier identifying an activity status from said trading partners for said transaction to said unique identifier; and

responsive to a request for information, providing said requested information to a requester based on said linked identifier and said unique identifier via an access platform, said requested information formatted for a selected channel, wherein the central exchange has an integrated access interface communicatively linked to the access platform, the access platform having a plurality of layers through which access to the central exchange is provided, said layers including an access layer, a display layer, and an analytical layer, wherein the access layer provides access through a plurality of different communication channels, and wherein the display layer provides different views for different types of trading partners; and wherein the analytical layer provides reports, wherein trading partners using disparate computing systems are able to access reports of the analytical layer through views of the display layer via communication channels of the access layer.

5. (Withdrawn) A system for exposing order status in a supply chain having disparate systems, comprising:

a trading partner exchange (TPE) communicatively interfaced to a plurality of trading partners, said TPE identifying an initial transaction and linking corresponding trading partner transaction status information with said initial transaction;

an access platform communicatively interfaced with said TPE, said access platform formatting said transaction status information according to a selected channel format; and

an access interface communicatively linked to said TPE, said access interface facilitating communication with said access platform.

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6. (Withdrawn) A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving an order from a first trading partner system, said order initiating a transaction;

linking a status reported by a second trading partner system corresponding to said transaction, wherein said first trading partner system and said second trading partner systems are disparate systems; and

reporting said linked status corresponding to said transaction, said status formatted for a particular channel.

7. (Withdrawn) The machine readable storage of claim 6, wherein said linking step comprises:

receiving an identifier for said status reported by said second trading partner, said identifier corresponding to said transaction; and

linking said received identifier to an assigned unique identifier corresponding to said transaction.

8. (Withdrawn) The machine readable storage according to claim 6, wherein said reporting step is responsive to a query received from an access platform, said access platform accessible by customers and said trading partners.

9. (Withdrawn) A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving at a central exchange, an initial order for a transaction from one of a plurality of trading partners having disparate systems, said central exchange assigning a

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unique identifier for said initial order to said transaction, said receiving step for exposing order status in a supply chain having disparate systems;

linking an identifier identifying an activity status from said trading partners for said transaction to said unique identifier; and responsive to a request for information, providing said requested information to a requester based on said linked identifier and said unique identifier, said requested information formatted for a selected channel.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first trading partner system and said second trading partner system are independently developed systems having different architectures.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: performing the receiving, linking, and reporting steps within [[a]] the trading partner exchange is remotely located from the first trading partner system and the second trading partner system.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

~~the trading partner exchange assigning a unique transaction identifier to the transaction; and~~

utilizing the unique transaction identifier to interface the trading partner exchange with the first trading partner system and to interface the trading partner exchange with the second trading partner system for communications associated with the transaction.

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13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

the trading partner exchange including a status record associated with the unique transaction identifier, said status record being used by the trading partner exchange to generate the reported updated data-reported linked status.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

linking the first trading partner system to the unique transaction identifier using a ~~trading partner order identifier associated with the first trading partner system identifier~~; and

linking the second trading partner system to the unique transaction identifier using a ~~trading partner order identifier associated with the second trading partner system identifier~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

the trading partner exchange receiving an update from a third trading partner system, wherein the reported linked status reported updated data reflects the update.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the first trading partner system uses the integrated access interface to access accesses the trading partner exchange through an access channel and wherein the second trading partner system uses the integrated access interface to access accesses the trading partner exchange through a different access channel.

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17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the trading partners comprise a customer, a distributor, and a manufacturer, wherein the trading partner exchange includes an access interface, said method further comprising the step of:

the [[a]] customer, the distributor, and the manufacturer accessing the status of the order through the integrated access interface.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the integrated access interface provides a plurality of access channels for communicating to the trading partner exchange.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said disparate systems are independently developed systems having different architectures.